

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
CENTRAL MONTANA REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
MUSSELHELL-JUDITH RURAL WATER SYSTEM PHASE 2 PROJECT UPDATED**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Date: June 16, 2023
Action: Drinking Water System Installation Project
Location of Project: Judith Basin County, Montana
DEQ/DWSRF Funding: Approximately \$3,000,000
Total Project Cost: Approximately \$50,975,000 (in 2022 dollars)

A FONSI was prepared for the Central Montana Regional Water Authority Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System (MJRWS) Phase 2 project and was published on January 12, 2023. The Phase 2 project consists of installing approximately 67 miles of buried HDPE pipelines 16 and 18 inches in diameter, drilling an additional well (Well #4) at the Ubet Wellfield (Wells #2 and #3 were installed in previous phases), and constructing a 560,000-gallon storage tank. In May 2023, the Phase 2 project was expanded to include a second well (Well #5) to be drilled at the Ubet Wellfield. At buildout, the system is expected to have 5 wells.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was published in July 2014 for all phases of the MJRWS project and included an assessment of the Ubet Wellfield. Based on that assessment, as well as review of the other resources listed below, the addition of a second well for this project is not expected to have any significant adverse impacts upon terrestrial and aquatic life or habitat, including endangered species, water quality or quantity, air quality, geological features, cultural or historical features, or social quality.

The Department of Environmental Quality utilized the following references in completing its environmental review of this project: (1) Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System – Central Montana Regional Water System Environmental Assessment dated July 2014 and prepared by Tetra Tech; (2) Environmental Assessment – Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System Phase 2 Construction Project dated June 2022 and prepared by Great West Engineering; (3) a Feasibility Report dated November 2014 and prepared by Great West Engineering; (4) a Design Report for Phase 1 and 2A of the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System Project dated December 2022 and prepared by Great West Engineering; (5) a Design Report for the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System Water Supply Wells #4 and #5 dated May 2023 and prepared by Great West Engineering; (6) a consultation letter from the Montana Sage Grouse Conservation Program dated October, 2022; (7) a review of potential contaminant sources for Phase 2 of the project completed by the source water protection section of DEQ. These references are available for review upon request by contacting:

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Comments on this finding or on the EA may be submitted to DEQ at the above address. Comments must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the date of publication of this FONSI in the newspaper. After evaluating substantive comments received, DEQ will revise the EA or determine if an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary. Otherwise, this finding of no significant impact will stand if no substantive comments are received during the comment period or if substantive comments are received and evaluated and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant.

Signed,



Rachel Clark, Bureau Chief
Engineering Bureau

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